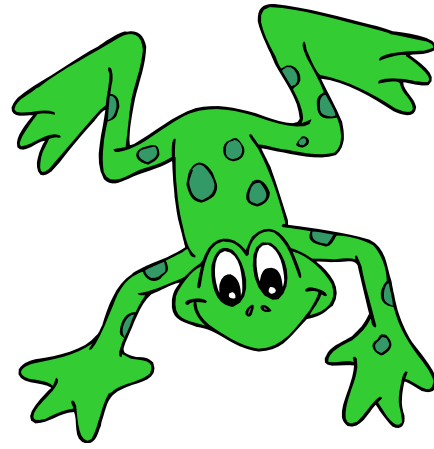


# First Grade Leaps Into Learning

December 3, 2010



## *Reading News*

To review what we learned this week, ask your child the following questions (*correct answers provided*): What letters and sounds did you learn? (*qu, y* and *e*). What keys did you learn to read (*uck, ill, and et*)? Try to list as many words as you can that are in these keys!

Our letters and sound for next week will be *wh*. Our new keys will be *ed, en, ell, and est*. Please practice handwriting at home. The "circle words" will be *how, many, some, their, them, find, three* and *came*.

The key stories are getting longer. Please take the time to listen to your child reread them to you. (Not all students are doing key stories.) Ask your child to think of two good questions to ask about the story to check comprehension. If they can ask a good question - they understood the story!

## *Math News*

We learned the new addition strategies of "Use Doubles to Add" and "Add Zero". We reviewed and practiced using the other strategies we have been learning. Everyone did a great job on the addition quiz! We also sorted and classified the empty wrapped boxes you sent to school. If you haven't sent an *empty, gift-wrapped box* to school yet, please do so as soon as possible. We'll be using them many times in December.

Next week we will begin learning and using "Subtraction Strategies" to improve speed and accuracy. These strategies will be "Counting Back on a Number Line", "Counting Back 1 or 2", "Subtract All" and "Subtract Zero".

Use your flashcards to work on practicing basic addition and subtraction facts at home. We can really tell who has been getting some extra practice. Remember the goal is facts to 18 by the end of the year.

## *Science / Social Studies News*

Just in time for Christmas wish lists and letters to Santa, we have been learning about the difference between **needs** and **wants** (Social Studies SOL 1.8)! Your child should be able to explain why we can't have everything we want and that you must choose some things and give up others based on the best information you have to help you make your decision. Ask them to name some things that people must have to live. (Some examples are clean air, clean water, shelter, nutritious food, clothing, rules, and families.)

Next week we will begin our study of Social Studies Standard 1.12 "**The student will recognize that communities in Virginia include people who have diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who make contributions to their communities, and who are united as Americans by common principles.**" We will learn about the history and traditions associated with the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, the African-American celebration of Kwanzaa, and the Christian celebration of Christmas.

## *December Service Projects at HJB*

- **Toys for Tots:** We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys through December 17. The greatest area of need for toys is for children between the ages of 0-2 and 10-12.
- **Non-perishable Food:** We will be collecting non-perishable food items to stock the shelves for the Salvation Army. The last day to send food to school will be December 17.



## *Important Dates in December*

December 3 - Book Fair Opens  
December 8 - PTO Pancake Dinner 5-7 pm  
                    Book Fair Open 4-7 pm  
December 9 - Book Fair Closes at 10:00 am  
December 14 - PTO Meeting and Chorus Program 7pm  
December 17 - Interim Reports Issued  
December 21 - Early Release @ 1:00 pm  
December 22-31 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

